

Massachusetts teachers go up...up... and away!

Submitted by Maj Bill Duffey, MAWG PAO

On April 8th and 9th, twenty Massachusetts school teachers, gathered at Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, Massachusetts, for an intensive two day program centered on the subject of flight. The teachers represented a cross section of grades, from elementary up to an Asst. Principal.

Five major theories of flight were covered, followed by a variety of hands-on activities. The goal of this program, sponsored through the Massachusetts Wing, Civil Air Patrol, is to introduce educators to a full day of curriculum that centers on space and aviation technology and a second day of actual flight experience with Civil Air Patrol pilots. None of the twenty teachers had ever experienced flying an aircraft before.

Coordinated by Director of Aerospace Education, Captain Lois Libenson, the first-day curriculum subjects were instructed by 1Lt. Lauren Kessler, Captain Roger Hourin, both staff members of Civil Air Patrol, and Dr. Jay Bookbinder, Senior Astrophysicist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. On hand to welcome the teachers were the Massachusetts Wing Commander, Col David Belcher, CAP, and Col Nicholas Zelles, USAF, Assistant to the Commander, Hanscom AFB.

The second day's activities began with the arrival of seven CAP aircraft, including MAWG's newest aircraft, the G1000. After a brief tour of the new ATC tower, the teachers were introduced to their pilots, drawn from both area squadrons and MAWG HQ. A wonderful day for flying was provided by Mother Nature and all the teachers were treated to several hours of air time.





The excitement and enthusiasm for the program was evident. Among some of the typical responses from the participants were;

“I found this workshop engaging, well-planned, and inspiring.”

“The opportunity that was given to me was unbelievable!”

“I can’t wait to bring what I learned back into my classroom.”

“Thank you very much for making this possible for teachers!”

“It made me proud to be a teacher!”

“I loved it! The workshop was very well organized, and the speakers, extremely informative. ”

At the end of the two-day session, all the participants were awarded a certificate of accomplishment, showing their completion of this new and exciting program.